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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Office action dated 3/30/09 regarding U.S. patent application number 10/734,601

Dear Sirs:

This letter is responsive to the office action dated 3/30/09 (copy attached) regarding U.S. patent application number 10/734,601.

Claim rejections under USC Section 102:

The examiner rejects claims 1 & 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being unpatentable over Burns et al. (US Patent 5,129,096), stating as part of his reasoning that:

> "pre-determined delays in such transceivers being calculated to cause a desired alignment in time of arrival of such re-transmitted wireless signals at a destination receiver (col.1 lines 54-63, "the time delay associated with each repeater being unique to that repeater" reads on "alignment in time of arrival" with reasonable broadest interpretation)"

We submit that it is not valid to interpret Burns in such a way that signals from multiple repeaters are delayed by times calculated to cause simultaneous arrival of transmissions from those repeaters at a receiver, because Burns specifically teaches away from having signals from multiple repeaters arrive simultaneously at a receiver. One place where Burns teaches away from multiple simultaneous signal arrivals is in column 1, line 60, where Burns states:

> "Thus, the unique time delay of each repeater prevents a message received by more than one repeater from being re-transmitted exactly simultaneously, thereby avoiding loss of the message due to traffic contention."

The delays in the repeaters in Burn's system are designed to prevent the simultaneous arrival ("traffic contention") of signals from multiple repeaters at a receiver. The delays in the present invention are designed to <u>cause</u> the arrival of signals from multiple repeaters at a receiver. Burns states that his "invention is particularly concerned with low power radio transmissions using a single frequency" (column 1, line 10). And, referring